

Message Text

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SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION TO COMMUNIST VICTORIES IN CAMBODIA AND
VIET-NAM AND USG LEADERSHIP

REF: PAUP 896

1. SUMMARY. A HAITIAN MEDIA COMMENTATOR WITH GOOD POLITICAL CONNECTIONS WROTE THAT THE COMMUNIST VICTORIES IN INDOCHINA WILL CAUSE OTHER ASIAN NATIONS TO RECONSIDER THEIR SECURITY LINKS WITH THE U.S., AND IN TURN INDUCE WASHINGTON TO BEGIN THE DIFFICULT AND EVEN PAINFUL TASK OF IMPROVING ITS RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA. HE CLAIMED THE GREATEST DANGER FACING HUMANITY IS NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, WHICH ULTIMATELY COULD MAKE IT POSSIBLE EVEN FOR TERRORISTS TO OBTAIN ATOMIC WEAPONS. U.S. LEADERSHIP IS NEEDED TO FIND A SOLUTION FOR THIS DILEMMA, AS WELL AS FOR THE WORLD'S ECONOMIC CRISIS. WERE THE U.S. TO REDUCE HER MILITARY MIGHT DRASTICALLY FOR ECONOMIC REASONS, HE INSISTED WORLD WAR WOULD CERTAINLY RESULT. THE U.S. LEADERSHIP DILEMMA IS FURTHER COMPLICATED, HE ADDED, BY U.S. EFFORTS TO PROTECT ISRAEL WHILE SEEKING GOOD RELATIONS WITH ARAB OIL EXPORTERS. HE CONCLUDED THAT THE RECENT REVERSES FOR U.S. POLICY HAVE GRAVELY INCREASED THE DANGER OF WORLD WAR, EVEN THOUGH THE U.S. REMAINS AND WILL BE FOR A LONG TIME THE WORLD'S RICHEST AND STRONGEST NATION. UNFORTUNATELY, HE SAID, TOO MANY WORLD LEADERS ARE OBTAINING

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NUCLEAR WEAPONS, AND SOME OF THESE LEADERS MAY BE MENTALLY UNSTABLE.

END SUMMARY.

2. THE FIRST ATTEMPTED ANALYSIS BY THE HAITIAN MEDIA OF THE POLICY IMPLICATIONS OF THE COMMUNIST VICTORIES IN CAMBODIA AND VIET-NAM APPEARED MAY 5 IN LE NOUVELLISTE IN A SIGNED ARTICLE BY FORTUNE BOGAT, A WELL-TO-DO BUSINESSMAN AND LONGTIME CONTRIBUTOR ON POLITICAL AFFAIRS WHO HAS ENJOYED EXCELLENT PALACE CONNECTIONS BEGINNING WITH THE ESTIME PRESIDENCY IN THE 1940'S. ENTITLED "THE AMERICAN DILEMMA", THE ARTICLE STATES THAT WHILE IT IS TOO EARLY TO PREDICT THE IMPACT RECENT EVENTS WILL HAVE UPON U.S. FOREIGN POLICY, THERE IS A POSSIBILITY CIRCUMSTANCES WILL FORCE THE U.S. INTO A DEMI-ISOLATIONIST POSTURE IN WHICH GOOD PAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS WILL HAVE A MUCH HIGHER PRIORITY FOR WASHINGTON.

3. WITHDRAWAL INTO WESTERN HEMISPHERE - BOGAT CLAIMED THAT ALTHOUGH MANY ASIAN NATIONS, SUCH AS JAPAN, THAILAND, AND THE PHILIPPINES, ULTIMATELY WERE DEPENDING UPON THE U.S. NUCLEAR UMBRELLA FOR THEIR NATIONAL SECURITY, PUBLIC OPINION POLLS COMMISSIONED BY CHICAGO'S CONCIL ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS INDICATE THAT 77 PERCENT OF THE U.S. PUBLIC OPPOSES THE USE OF U.S. TROOPS IN ANY FOREIGN CONTEXT EXCEPT TO DEFEND CANADA FROM INVASION. THIS FACTOR WILL CAUSE THOSE NATIONS TO REEVALUATE THEIR SECURITY POLICIES. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THE U.S. PUBLIC HAS LITTLE CONFIDENCE EITHER IN ANY TREATIES SIGNED WITH THE USSR OR IN THE SINO-AMERICAN DETENTE. BOGAT OPINED THAT THE U.S. MAY THUS BEGIN TO UPGRADE ITS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE ITS RELATIONS SOUTH OF THE RIO GRANDE, WHERE U.S. INVESTMENT IS NOW REGARDED WITH GREAT SUSPICION, AND EVEN TO CONSIDER HOW TO IMPROVE ITS MEANS TO PREVENT A MILITARY ATTACK ON THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE.. ALL THIS WILL ENTAIL A DIFFICULT AND PAINFUL DIPLOMATIC EFFORT FOR THE U.S.

4. NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION DANGER REQUIRES U.S. LEADERSHIP - BOGAT POINTED OUT THAT THE TIME MAY NOT BE FAR OFF WHEN IRRESPONSIBLE AND CRIMINAL ELEMENTS WILL SELL ATOMIC WEAPONS TO TERRORISTS MUCH AS TODAY INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICER HAVE THERATEN THE WELL-BEING OF ALL NATIONS WITH DANGEROUS DRUGS. THE SOLUTION TO THIS TERRIBLE PROBLEM WILL REQUIRE ALL NATIONS TO COOPERATE TO SAVE HUMANITY. WITHOUT U.S. LEADERSHIP THERE WILL BE NO SOLUTIONS TO THIS OR TO THE WORLD'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS.

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MOREOVER, IF THE U.S. WEAKENS HER MILITARY MIGHT EXCESSIVELY DUE TO FINANCIAL PROBLEMS, ALMOST NOTHING COULD STOP A WORLD WAR FROM BREAKING OUT IN SHORT ORDER.

5. MIDDLE EAST - THE U.S. DILEMMA IS FURTHER COMPLICATED IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WHERE U.S. EFFORTS TO HAVE GOOD RELATIONS WITH ARAB OIL PRODUCERS ARE MATCHED BY STEPS TAKEN TO PROTECT ISRAEL. BOGAT ADVISED HIS READERS THAT JEWS ARE AN IMPORTANT POLITICAL

FORCE IN THE U.S. MEANWHILE, HE WARNED, THE U.S. MUST ALSO
KEEP IN MIND THE GOALS OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNISM IN THE MIDDLE
EAST.

6. U.S. REVERSES INCREASE WAR DANGER - BOGAT CONCLUDED THAT THE
RECENT DIPLOMATIC REVERSES SUFFERED BY THE U.S. HAVE CONSIDERABLY
INCREASED THE RISK OF A WORLD WAR. HE SAID IT WOULD BE A GRAVE
ERROR, HOWEVER, ON THE PART OF ANY NATION TO BEGIN HOSTILITIES,
BECAUSE THE U.S. IS STILL AND WILL REMAIN FOR A LONG TIME
THE STRONGEST AND RICHEST NATION IN THE WORLD. SUCH A WAR WOULD
BE UNTHINKABLE SINCE THERE WOULD BE NEITHER VICTORS NOR VANQUISHED;
UNFORTUNATELY, THE DILEMMA IS THAT IT IS A PROVEN FACT THAT
ONE OUT OF EVERY TEN KEY LEADERS IN THE WORLD IS CRAZY.

7. COMMENT - BOGAT WAS A PERSONAL FRIEND OF THE LATE PRESIDENT
FRANCOIS DUVALIER, ALTHOUGH HE OFTEN CRITICIZED DUVALIERIST
RULE TO EMBOFFS, WITH WHOM HE HAS MAINTAINED GOOD RELATIONS
OVER THE YEARS. HIS VIEWS, ALTHOUGH NOT OFFICIAL, ARE TAKEN
SERIOUSLY AT THE PALACE.
THOMSON

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